

Original sponsors: Miller, Buchholdt,  
Zharoff, et al

Offered: 5/26/81  
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CS FOR CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 17 (Finance)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to older Alaskans; establishing an  
7 Older Alaskans Commission; amending the law providing  
8 service programs for older Alaskans; and providing for  
9 an effective date."

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

11 \* Section 1. FINDINGS, PURPOSE, AND INTENT. (a) The legislature finds  
12 that the changing pace of modern life, economic inflation, the infirmities  
13 of advancing years, and alterations in the traditions and values of family  
14 life have combined to place many older Alaskans in an unenviable position of  
15 poverty and dependency that endangers their health, well-being, and safety.  
16 In keeping with the inherent dignity and respect due the individual in our  
17 society, older Alaskans are entitled to secure equal opportunity to the full  
18 enjoyment of

19 (1) an adequate income in accordance with a decent standard of  
20 living;

21 (2) sound physical and mental health, without regard to economic  
22 status or condition;

23 (3) suitable housing, selected, designed, and located with refer-  
24 ence to the special needs and concerns of older Alaskans at reasonable cost;

25 (4) full restorative health services for those older Alaskans in  
26 need of institutional care;

27 (5) opportunity for employment without discrimination based on an  
28 individual's age;

29 (6) pursuit of meaningful activity within a wide range of civic,

1 cultural, and recreational opportunities;

2 (7) efficient, coordinated in-home care and readily available  
3 community social assistance;

4 (8) the benefit of knowledge gained from research which can sus-  
5 tain and improve the health and happiness of older Alaskans; and

6 (9) independence and the fullest exercise of individual initia-  
7 tive on the part of older Alaskans in the planning and management of their  
8 lives.

9 (b) It is the purpose of this Act to assure that the years remaining  
10 to people over the age of 60 are years of good health, honor, and dignity by

11 (1) providing a full range of social services, health services,  
12 employment services, and educational opportunities to older Alaskans;

13 (2) giving special attention to the needs of older Alaskans in  
14 the planning and delivery of state and local programs;

15 (3) improving the delivery of all public services essential to  
16 the lives of older Alaskans; and

17 (4) requiring that the planning and provision of programs of  
18 benefit to older Alaskans will be undertaken with the participation, knowl-  
19 edge, advice, and comments of people served.

20 (c) It is the intent of this Act to exclude the Alaska Pioneers' Homes  
21 and the longevity bonus program from the provisions of this Act, and to  
22 exempt the Alaska Pioneers' Homes and the longevity bonus program from the  
23 scope of the authority and responsibility of the Older Alaskans Commission.

24 \* Sec. 2. AS 44.21 is amended by adding new sections to read:

25 ARTICLE 4. OLDER ALASKANS COMMISSION.

26 Sec. 44.21.200. OLDER ALASKANS COMMISSION. (a) The Older  
27 Alaskans Commission is established in the Department of Administration.  
28 The members of the commission include

29 (1) the commissioner of the Department of Administration or

1 his designee;

2 (2) the commissioner of the Department of Community and  
3 Regional Affairs or his designee;

4 (3) the commissioner of the Department of Health and Social  
5 Services or his designee;

6 (4) the chairman of the Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board  
7 appointed under AS 44.21.100 - 44.21.130; and

8 (5) seven Alaskans selected on the basis of their knowledge  
9 and demonstrated interest in the concerns of older Alaskans, appointed  
10 by the governor in accordance with (b) of this section.

11 (b) After requesting from senior citizens organizations the names  
12 of persons who are qualified for and interested in serving on the  
13 commission, the governor shall appoint the members of the commission  
14 under (a)(5) of this section. Appointments shall be made by the gover-  
15 nor to assure representation of low-income persons and minorities, and  
16 representation from rural and urban areas of the state, and to secure  
17 statewide geographical representation on the commission. At least six  
18 of the persons appointed by the governor shall be 60 years of age or  
19 older. At least two of these persons shall be 65 years of age or  
20 older. Each member appointed by the governor shall be a resident of  
21 the state.

22 (c) The persons appointed under (a)(5) of this section serve  
23 overlapping four-year terms. A member may be reappointed, but no  
24 member appointed under (a)(5) of this section may serve more than two  
25 consecutive terms or eight consecutive years, whichever is longer.

26 (d) If a person appointed under (a)(5) of this section fails to  
27 attend three consecutive meetings of the commission, a majority of the  
28 members of the commission shall request the governor to terminate the  
29 membership of the member and to fill the vacancy.

1 (e) A vacancy in the membership of persons appointed under (a)(5)  
2 of this section shall be filled by appointment by the governor. The  
3 person appointed shall serve for the unexpired portion of the term.

4 Sec. 44.21.210. MEETINGS. (a) The commission shall meet at the  
5 call of the chairman, at the request of a majority of the members, or  
6 at a regularly scheduled time as determined by a majority of the mem-  
7 bers. The commission shall meet at least six times each year.

8 (b) The members of the commission listed in AS 44.21.200(a)(1) -  
9 (4) may not vote on matters before the commission. A majority of the  
10 members of the commission listed in AS 44.21.200(a)(5) constitutes a  
11 quorum for conducting business and exercising the powers of the commis-  
12 sion.

13 (c) The commission shall elect one of its members as chairman,  
14 and may select other officers it considers necessary.

15 Sec. 44.21.220. COMPENSATION. Members of the commission receive  
16 no compensation for their services, but are entitled to per diem and  
17 travel allowances authorized by law for other boards and commissions  
18 under AS 39.20.180.

19 Sec. 44.21.230. POWERS, DUTIES AND LIMITATIONS. (a) The commis-  
20 sion shall

21 (1) formulate a comprehensive statewide plan which identi-  
22 fies the concerns and needs of older Alaskans and, with reference to  
23 the plan adopted, prepare and submit to the governor and legislature an  
24 annual analysis and evaluation of the services which are provided to  
25 older Alaskans;

26 (2) make recommendations directly to the governor and legis-  
27 lature with respect to legislation, regulations, and appropriations for  
28 programs or services which benefit older Alaskans;

29 (3) encourage and aid the development of municipal commis-

1 sions serving older Alaskans and community-oriented programs and ser-  
2 vices for the benefit of older Alaskans;

3 (4) employ an executive director who serves at the pleasure  
4 of the commission;

5 (5) help older Alaskans lead dignified, independent, and  
6 useful lives; and

7 (6) request and receive reports and audits from state  
8 agencies and local institutions concerned with the conditions and needs  
9 of older Alaskans;

10 (7) administer federal programs as provided under the Older  
11 Americans Act, P.L. 89-73, as amended; and

12 (8) administer state programs as provided under AS 47.65.-  
13 010 - 47.65.060.

14 (b) To accomplish its duties, the commission may

15 (1) review, evaluate and comment upon state programs con-  
16 cerned with the problems and the needs of older Alaskans;

17 (2) collect facts and statistics, and make studies of condi-  
18 tions and problems pertaining to the employment, health, financial  
19 security, social welfare, and other concerns which bear upon the well-  
20 being of older Alaskans;

21 (3) provide information about public programs which would be  
22 of interest or benefit to older Alaskans;

23 (4) appoint special committees, which may include persons  
24 who are not members of the commission, to complete necessary studies;

25 (5) promote community education efforts regarding the prob-  
26 lems and concerns of older Alaskans;

27 (6) contract for necessary services;

28 (7) consult and cooperate with persons, organizations, and  
29 groups interested in or concerned with programs of assistance to older

1 Alaskans;

2 (8) advocate improved programs of benefit to older Alaskans;

3 and

4 (9) set standards for levels of services for older Alaskans  
5 for programs administered by the commission.

6 (c) The commission may not investigate, review, or undertake any  
7 responsibility for the longevity bonus program (AS 47.45.010 - 47.45.-  
8 170) or the Alaska Pioneers' Homes (AS 47.25.010 - 47.25.110).

9 Sec. 44.21.240. DEFINITIONS. In AS 44.21.200 - 44.21.240, "com-  
10 mission" means the Older Alaskans Commission.

11 \* Sec. 3. AS 39.25.120 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

12 (19) the executive director, but not other staff, of the  
13 Older Alaskans Commission located in the Department of Administration.

14 \* Sec. 4. AS 44.66.010(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

15 (10) Older Alaskans Commission (AS 44.21.200) -- June 30,  
16 1985.

17 \* Sec. 5. AS 47.65.040 is amended to read:

18 Sec. 47.65.040. REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION BY SPONSOR. A sponsor  
19 receiving a grant under this chapter shall contribute to the total cost  
20 of the program or project. The contribution may be in cash or in-kind  
21 services. The amount of the sponsor's required contribution is deter-  
22 mined by the application of the formula (average per capita full and  
23 true value of all property in the municipality or community in which  
24 the project or program takes place/average per capita full and true  
25 value of all property in the state) x contribution percentage to the  
26 estimated total program or project cost as determined by the office on  
27 aging at the time of approval of a grant application. However, the  
28 amount of the sponsor's contribution may not amount to more than 10 per-  
29 cent of the total program or project cost. For purposes of this

1 subsection

2 (1) the contribution percentage for

3 (A) a program or project in a municipality or community  
4 having a population of 5,000 or less is 10 percent of the total  
5 program or project cost;

6 (B) a program or project in a municipality or community  
7 having a population of 5,001 to 10,000 is 20 percent of the total  
8 program or project cost; and

9 (C) a program or project in municipality or community  
10 having a population or more than 10,000 is 30 percent of the total  
11 program or project cost;

12 (2) if an application is submitted for a program or project  
13 in a municipality or community for which no average per capita full and  
14 true property value determination has been made,

15 (A) if the population of the municipality or community  
16 is 750 or more, the office on aging shall request the state  
17 assessor to compute the average per capita full and true property  
18 value of that municipality or community and report it;

19 (B) if the population is less than 750, the office on  
20 aging may substitute for the average per capita full and true  
21 value of property in the municipality or community an amount equal  
22 to the average per capita full and true value of property in the  
23 smallest municipality for which that amount has been determined by  
24 the state assessor;

25 (3) the required contribution rate of the sponsor may not  
26 exceed the contribution percentage established in (1) of this section;

27 (4) the grant awarded by the office on aging may not exceed  
28 the estimated total program or project cost as determined by the office  
29 on aging less the contribution by the sponsor determined in accordance

1 with this section.

2 \* Sec. 6. AS 47.65.060(1) is amended to read:

3 (1) "office on aging" means the Older Alaskans Commission  
4 established in the Department of Administration [OFFICE ESTABLISHED IN  
5 THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES];

6 \* Sec. 7. AS 47.65.060(4) is amended by adding a new subparagraph to  
7 read:

8 (C) an educational institution.

9 \* Sec. 8. INITIAL MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING OF COMMISSION. (a) Of the  
10 seven public members first appointed by the governor to the Older Alaskans  
11 Commission under AS 44.21.200(a)(5),

12 (1) three shall serve a term of two years;

13 (2) two shall serve a term of three years;

14 (3) two shall serve a term of four years.

15 (b) In making appointments of the first public members of the Older  
16 Alaskans Commission under AS 44.21.200(a)(5), the governor shall designate  
17 an expiration date of the terms of members first appointed in accordance  
18 with (a) of this section.

19 (c) The governor shall determine the date and place of the first  
20 meeting of the Older Alaskans Commission; however, that meeting shall be  
21 held not later than 60 days after the effective date of this Act.

22 \* Sec. 9. TRANSFER OF PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES. The following are  
23 transferred to the Older Alaskans Commission in the Department of Administra-  
24 tion:

25 (1) the programs conducted under the Older Americans Act,  
26 P.L. 89-73, as amended, and the persons who administer those programs in the  
27 division of adult and aging services, Department of Health and Social  
28 Services;

29 (2) the programs conducted under AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.060, and

1 the persons who administer those programs in the division of adult and aging  
2 services, Department of Health and Social Services; and

3 (3) the Governor's Advisory Committee on Aging.

4 \* Sec. 10. CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION.

5 This Act does not affect the responsibility of the Department of Adminis-  
6 tration for the Alaska longevity bonus program (AS 47.45.010 - 47.45.170) or  
7 the Alaska Pioneers' Homes (AS 47.25.010 - 47.25.110).

8 \* Sec. 11. Sections 1- 8 and 10 of this Act take effect July 1, 1981.

9 \* Sec. 12. Section 9 of this Act takes effect January 1, 1982.

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